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Dick Bukowski is a senior engineer with the Building and Fire Research Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. As coordinator of Standards and Codes for the Laboratory, Mr. Bukowski is very active within the United States and internationally. He is a member of the International Code Council committee that drafted the ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities. In 2000, Mr. Bukowski was appointed to the National Fire Protection Association's Standards Council, the body that administers the entire NFPA Codes and Standards system, including the new NFPA Building Code (NFPA 5000). He is a fellow of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers and is a licensed professional engineer in Illinois and Maryland.

Mr. Bukowski chairs several committees and task groups for the NFPA and is coordinator of the International Council on Building Standards and Documentation, Working Commission 14: Fire. He was appointed by ANSI as U.S representative to ISO TAG8 that advises the ISO Technical Management Board and provides oversight to all ISO Technical Committees working in the building and fire areas.

He is a prolific writer with over 150 publications to his credit. He was named Automatic Fire Alarm Association Person of the Year in 1997 and the Commerce Department Federal Engineer of the Year by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 2003.

His education includes a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

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## **The Basis for Appropriate Safety Levels for Tall Buildings**

Safety levels are a public policy decision made by regulators and not the technical community. It is appropriate for the technical community to suggest technical justification for safety levels, performance levels that can be achieved, and their associated costs. These should serve as the basis for the public consultation process and the ultimate policy decisions of regulators. Public policy should not be dominated by the outcome of a single event but needs to reflect public expectations and societal objectives, realizing that these may be influenced by a single event of sufficient magnitude.

This presentation will discuss the unique characteristics of tall buildings that influence the decision on safety levels for structural safety, fire safety, and emergency egress (of occupants, including those with disabilities) and access (by those who may be responding to emergencies of various types). These are presented in the context of the findings and recommendations of the NIST World Trade Center Investigation with regard to recommended changes to Codes, Standards, and Practices.